

# ***“You Are Out of Your Mind!”***

## ***Acts 25 & 26***

### ***Lesson 34 in a Series about the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church***

The last few chapters of Acts (23-28) detail the events of Paul's journey to Rome. Through a series of trials with the Jewish leaders prosecuting Paul before the Roman governors, we see ample evidence of Paul's personal experience with the “spiritual armor” included in his letter to the Ephesian church. Let's listen in to parts of Paul's defense...

#### **Acts 25**

**13** A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus. **14** Since they were spending many days there, Festus discussed Paul's case with the king. He said: "There is a man here whom Felix left as a prisoner. **15** When I went to Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders of the Jews brought charges against him and asked that he be condemned.

**22** Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man myself." He replied, "Tomorrow you will hear him."

#### **Acts 26**

I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— **23** that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles."

**24** At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

**25** "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. **26** The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. **27** King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."

**28** Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

We have looked at most of the ***spiritual armor*** Paul described in Ephesians chapter 6 through our study of the opposition he faced on his journeys. What would Paul say about the armor of God in this situation?

**13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **17** Take the ***helmet of salvation...*** *Ephesians 6:13-14*

A helmet protects the head which ultimately protects the whole body. It can absorb blows that might otherwise cause a soldier to fall in battle. Let's not forget that while we're living in this world we are engaged in spiritual battle every day! Without protection to our head, we are doomed to failure.

Our salvation protects us from the claim that Satan *had* in our lives. How can salvation accomplish this protection? The helmet of salvation gives us the ***confidence*** we need to face the enemy. You can withstand attack because you know that God gave His Son to die in your place because He loves you and has called you into His family.

With this in mind, let's take the helmet of salvation and rise above our circumstances in victory! When God makes a promise He keeps it! Instead, we need to put on our helmet and rise above the disappointment and doubt! We have salvation from Satan's grasp!

The following song is speaking about the victory in the resurrection! The words are so appropriate in our discussion of the Helmet of Salvation! The song begins as an observer at the tomb of Jesus. In the words of the observer, it appeared Jesus had been defeated. In the chorus though, we hear the words of the Father!

### ***Arise, My Love!***

Not a word was heard at the tomb that day,  
Just shuffling soldier's feet as they guarded the grave.  
One day, two day, three days had passed,  
Could it be that Jesus had breathed His last?

Could it be that His Father had forsaken Him,  
Turned His back on His Son, despising our sin.  
All hell seemed to whisper, "Just forget Him, He's dead."  
Then the Father looked down on His Son and said,

"Arise, My love! Arise, My love! The grave no longer has a hold on You.  
No more death's sting, no more suffering. Arise! Arise, My love."

The earth trembled and the tomb began to shake,  
And like lightning from heaven the stone rolled away;  
And as dead men, the guards stood there in fright,  
As the power of love displayed its might.

Then suddenly a melody filled the air,  
Riding wings of wind, it was everywhere;  
The words all creation had been longing to hear,  
The sweet sound of vict'ry, so loud and clear.

"Arise, My love! Arise, My love! The grave no longer has a hold on You.  
No more death's sting, no more suffering. Arise! Arise, My love."

*(Songs of Faith and Praise #160; Howard Publishing Co., Inc.)*

Helmet of salvation, confidence, victory—can we fully grasp the goodness of God in His rescue of the damaged *goods* seen in our own lives?

***"Heartaches and broken pieces, ruined lives are why He died on Calv'ry."***

In appreciation of the Lord's goodness and as a reminder of the confidence that is available in the Helmet of Salvation, let's look at three salvation words as we put our helmets on together.

#### **JUSTIFIED** *Forgiveness of sin*

**23...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 He did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:23-26)**

#### **SANCTIFIED** *Set apart for holy use*

**9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)**

**GLORIFIED** *Ultimate goal of our salvation...at home with the Father*

**28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.**

**31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:28-31)**

God is for us! He is reaching out to rescue you today. If you have not accepted His gift through faith in His Son, come today so we can assist you in your obedience to the Gospel!